



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor

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PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL POOLS AND HOT TUBS (63.120)

Private outdoor residential pools, both above and below ground **that exceed 5,000 gallons** (see below), and hot tubs are permitted as an accessory use within the rear yard or non-required side yard; except that, for multiple-family developments, the Planning Commission may determine the location of the pool or tub. Private outdoor pools and hot tubs shall meet the following requirements as applicable:

- (1) There shall be a distance of not less than ten (10) feet between the adjoining property line and the outside of the pool wall for above ground pools. For in-ground pools, there shall be a distance of not less than five (5) feet between the adjoining property line and the outside of the pool wall.
- (2) There shall be a distance of not less than four (4) feet between the outside pool wall and any building located on the same lot.
- (3) No swimming pools shall be located less than ten (10) feet from any side street or alley right-of-way, or the distance required for side yard by the zoning code, whichever is greater.
- (4) No swimming pool shall be located in a public easement.
- (5) All yards containing swimming pools shall be completely enclosed by an obscuring fence not less than four (4) feet in height. All yards of residential structures of three (3) or more units and commercial structures containing swimming pools shall be enclosed by an obscuring fence not less than five (5) feet in height. The gates shall be of a self-closing and self-latching type, with the latch on the inside of the gate, not readily available for children to open. Gates shall be capable of being securely locked when the pool is not in use.
- (6) All yards containing hot tubs shall be secured as in subsection (5) or shall have a cover which shall be locked when the hot tub is not in use.
- (7) Electrical: New electrical wiring for a swimming pool or hot tub requires an Electrical Permit and the wiring must be in conformance with the National Electrical Code, Article 680. For Overhead Conductor Clearances- see the back of this handout. Check with Electrical Inspector if there are any questions (651) 266-9003.

GALLONS OF WATER IN POOLS

WATER HEIGHT	DIAMETER IN FEET				
	14	15	16	17	18
3 FEET	3454	3965	4512	5093	5710
4 FT-6 IN	4030	4626	5264	5942	
4 FEET	4606	5287	6016		

680.8 Overhead Conductor Clearances.

(A) Power. With respect to service drop conductors and open overhead wiring, swimming pool and similar installations shall comply with the minimum clearances given in Table 680.8 and illustrated in Figure 680.8.

Table 680.8 Overhead Conductor Clearances

Clearance Parameters	Insulated Cables, 0-750 Volts to Ground, Supported on and Cabled Together with and Effectively Grounded Bare Messenger or Effectively Grounded Neutral Conductor		All Other Conductors Voltage to Ground			
	m	ft	0 through 15 kV		Over 15 through 50 kV	
			m	ft	m	ft
A. Clearance in any direction to the water level, edge of water surface, base of diving platform, or permanently anchored raft	6.9	22.5	7.5	25	8.0	27
B. Clearance in any direction to the observation stand, tower, or diving platform	4.4	14.5	5.2	17	5.5	18
C. Horizontal limit of clearance measured from inside wall of the pool	This limit shall extend to the outer edge of the structures listed in A and B of this table but not to less than 3 m (10 ft).					

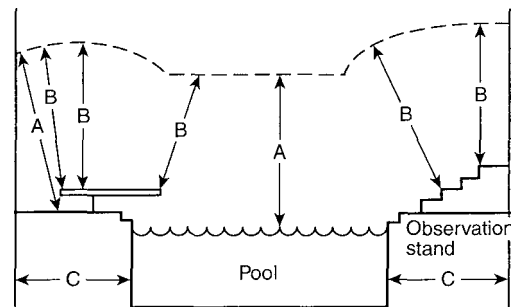


Figure 680.8 Clearances from pool structures.

(B) Communication Systems. Communication, radio, and television coaxial cables within the scope of Articles 800 through 820 shall be permitted at a height of not less than 3.0m (10ft) above swimming and wading pools, diving structures, and observation stands, towers, or platform.

680.10 Underground Wiring Location. Underground wiring shall not be permitted under the pool or within the area extending 1.5m (5ft) horizontally from the inside wall of the pool unless the wiring is necessary to supply pool equipment permitted by this article. Where space limitations prevent wiring from being routed a distance 1.5m (5ft) or more from the pool, such wiring shall be permitted where installed in rigid metal conduit intermediate metal conduit, or a nonmetallic raceway system. All metal conduits shall be corrosion resistant and suitable for the location.



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OVERHEAD XCEL ENERGY WIRE CLEARANCES FROM DECKS, SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS & HOT TUBS

If you are thinking of installing a deck, swimming pool, spa or hot tub outdoors under the power wires running from your house to a wood pole, please be aware that those wires have minimum clearance requirements that must be maintained after the deck, pool or tub is installed. These clearances are the minimum necessary for electrical safety as determined by the National Electrical Code to prevent contact with live wires when standing on a deck or when in or around a hot tub, spa or swimming pool. Also, please understand that you own and are responsible for all of the electrical service: mast, meter socket, etc. The only two things XCEL owns are the overhead wires between your house and the wood pole and the electric meter. Any modification to the service is your financial responsibility, and XCEL energy may have additional charges for their work with the overhead wires.

Decks: A minimum of 10 feet between the XCEL wires and any point on the deck directly under the wires. This may include the “drip loop” between the point where the wires attach to the house and where they loop down to go into the conduit for the service entrance to the house. This loop may be the low point of the entire run of wire and must have 10 feet from the deck.

Swimming Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs: The XCEL Energy wires must be a minimum of 22-1/2 feet above the maximum water level of the pool, tub or spa. This minimum height is extended for a distance of 10 feet horizontally around the pool, spa or tub. This particular clearance applies only to the XCEL wires between your home and the wood pole. There are greater clearances if the pool, spa or tub is close to the higher voltage wires that may be run from pole to pole in neighborhoods.

How Do I Get The Clearances I Need? There are 3 basic ways to get the additional clearance you need for safety:

1. **Raise the height of the service mast-** this may be possible if the additional height necessary is fairly small. XCEL may charge for moving their wires.
2. **Move the service location-** This requires, at the minimum, moving the mast to a new location so that the overhead wires will not cross within the boundaries of the restricted space above the pool, tub or spa. XCEL may charge for moving their wires.
3. **Bury the service wires-** This may be possible depending on the relative location of the pool, spa or tub and whether there is clearance to bury the wires around the edge. These buried wires still must be at least 5 feet away from the edge of the pool, spa or tub. Your first step would be to contact XCEL Energy (800-628-2121) to have them determine whether it is even feasible to bury the service conductors. XCEL does charge for the burial of the conductors.

Who can do this electrical work? Under certain circumstances, an owner-homesteader may do their own electrical work (please contact us for further information before proceeding) with an electrical permit from this office. Since moving or changing the service to a house requires shutting off all the power to the house and working with live unfused electrical wires from XCEL, if you are at all concerned about working with these live wires, please consider hiring an electrical contractor (company) licensed with the State of Minnesota. The contractor obtains their own electrical permit and inspections as needed. For further information, please call the electrical inspectors at (651) 266-9003 between 7:30 & 9:00am. Monday-Friday.